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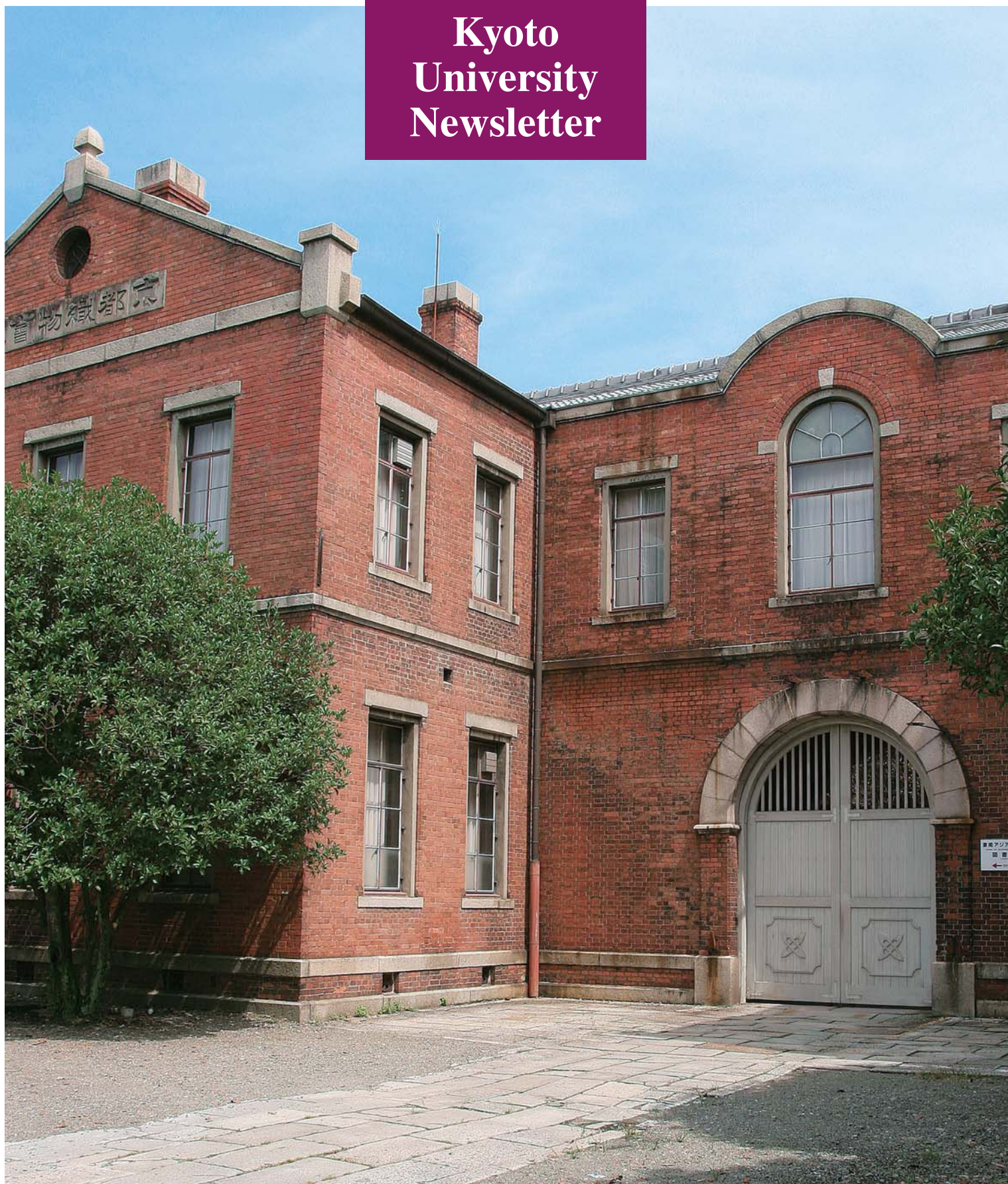
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楽友  
Raku-Yu

**Kyoto  
University  
Newsletter**





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### Editor's Notes

The theme of this issue is the activities of Kyoto University in other countries. Nobuyuki Arai's article is about his research projects in Thailand for tracking sea turtles, Mekong giant catfish and dugongs. The second feature article portrays the field stations in Asia and Africa set up by Kyoto University.

Promenade section features Hyakumanben Chionji. The name "Hyakumanben" often refers to the intersection of Higashioji street and Imadegawa street. It is also used as the name of a bus stop which is one of the closest to the main campus of Kyoto University. These names all come from the temple Chionji, and its origin is explained in the article.

Chionji is not among touristic temples and shrines in Kyoto, which are always filled with visitors. If you have time to drop by on your way to Kyoto University, you will enjoy spacious precinct and quiet atmosphere.

### Main building of the former Kyoto Textile Company – Completed in 1889

At Approximately 1 km west of the Yoshida Campus, on Kawabata-dori street, which runs along the Kamogawa River, there stands an old-fashioned brick building. It is currently used as a library by the Center for Southeast Asian studies, but originally, it was the main building of the Kyoto Textile Company.

The company was established in 1887 by Eiichi Shibusawa and Kihachiro Okura, who were leading businessmen in Japan of the time, and was Japan's largest textile factory, incorporating the latest European technology. At the time, as the relocation of the capital to Tokyo had caused Kyoto to begin losing its vitality, advanced industrial technologies were being introduced to the city in order to create a modern city. The Lake Biwa Canal and the Keage Hydroelectric Power Plant, covered by "Strolling through Kyoto" in the 7th issue of *Raku-Yu*, were also completed around this time.

The entrance with heavy wooden gates. As the gates are not decorative but give an impression of simplicity and sturdiness instead, they are occasionally selected as a movie location, for example when shooting prison gate scenes.



In the pediment of the left wing, a stone slab carved with "Kyoto Textile Company" can still be seen. The company emblem was designed after a shuttle, which is a feature of textile companies, and is fitted in the round window above the slab.



Photo taken from the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, which was built in the back of the premises in 2004, looking out over the Kamogawa River towards Kyoto's city center.

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### A Note on Order of Names

As a general rule, names appearing in *Raku-Yu* are written in given name/family name order.



This name was taken from the assembly hall called "Raku-Yu Kaikan" that commemorated the 25th anniversary of the founding of Kyoto University.

**Shuzo Nishimura** Prof. Nishimura was born in Kyoto in 1945. In 2006, he was appointed as Executive Vice-President for International Relations and Information Infrastructure after serving at the Graduate School of Economics and Faculty of Economics. As head of international relations, he hopes to improve even further the quality of exchanges with international students, especially those from China and East Asia. "The time has just flown by since I assumed my new post. I don't have much time left in my term, so I'd better get moving!" he says with a smile. He is eager to capitalize on Kyoto's rich historical and cultural heritage and the special warmth and hospitality of Kyoto residents in order to further enrich international exchanges and train researchers and educators who have a wider perspective. He is planning to establish education system for information management and security. "It is quite difficult because neither project has a model to refer to. However, as Kyoto University attracts outstanding students from all over the country, I would like to use this strength to create new methods to match this new age," he told passionately.



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## Kyoto University's Mission Statement and Strategic Policy for Internationalization

The topics of international exchange and internationalization in education, particularly in higher education, have been discussed endlessly in Japan over the last ten years. The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) is encouraging all universities to strive towards internationalization and to devise their own internationalization strategies. Kyoto University has also been making various efforts in line with those recommendations, including the establishment of the Organization for the Promotion of International Relations (OPIR).

Although generally expressed as a single word, and as a single concept, the undertakings involved in "internationalization" are many and diverse. This is because there are simply so many areas in which internationalization is required. For that reason, in order to begin our undertakings with clearly defined principles, when we established the OPIR we engaged in lengthy discussions and decided on the following course. We determined that the aims of our mission would not be limited to simply opening our doors to students from overseas, but that we would actively support the sending of our own students and researchers to other countries, host outstanding researchers from overseas, engage in collaboration and share its benefits, and disseminate the fruits of our collaborative research throughout the local community and to education and research establishments worldwide. To that end, we devised our policy for internationalization in accordance with Kyoto University's Fundamental Principles, basing our plans on a global outlook and respect for regional cultures.

As one strategic policy to realize the Fundamental Principles described above, we are planning to implement a program to promote exchange activities among students in the East Asian region. While the above principles were conceived with the focus mainly on research, we fully recognize the importance of ensuring that all students benefit from our strengths as a research-oriented university in the form of an enriched education.

Many faculties and academic departments of Kyoto University, particularly the Institute for Research in Humanities, are endowed with a rich background of historical study relating to the East Asian region, particularly China. Through this background, combined with the achievements of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies in research relating to modern Southeast Asia, Kyoto University has the closest links to Asian countries of any university in Japan. The promotion of exchange endeavors with the students of those regions is vital to the university's utilization of its intellectual assets.

Of course, exchange with the countries of Europe, the United States and Africa continues to be an important element of Kyoto University's mission, but at present, within the sphere of student exchange, we intend to work towards the expansion, in terms of scale and scope, of exchange undertakings in the East Asian region.

Shuzo Nishimura  
Vice-President of Kyoto University

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shuzo Nishimura".

# Field informatics on sea turtles, Mekong giant catfish and dugongs

We are performing the Southeast Asia sea turtle associative research (SEASTAR2000), the Mekong giant catfish tracking project (MCTP) and the dugong biological survey (DBS) as part of the 21st Century Centers of Excellence (COE) Program (2002-2007) and the Global COE Program (2007-2012). All the species of the projects are heavily endangered and need sufficient degree of protection. They are listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Appendix I. However, very little is known of the species while the implementation to conserve them is a pressing problem in Thailand and neighbouring ASEAN countries.

## SEA TURTLE TRACKING

We launched the Southeast Asia sea turtle associative research (SEASTAR2000) in 1999 on the request of the Thai government. At the time, the US government had notified the Thai government of a ban on shrimp exports to the USA due to the by-catch of sea turtles by shrimp trawlers. The urgent objectives of the SEASTAR2000 were to clarify migratory paths of sea turtles in the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea using a satellite tracking system and to develop a scientific strategy for the conservation. We released around 30 female green turtles, *Chelonia mydas*, attached with Argos platform transmitter terminals (PTT) and clearly found the sea turtle migratory paths as shown in Fig. 1.

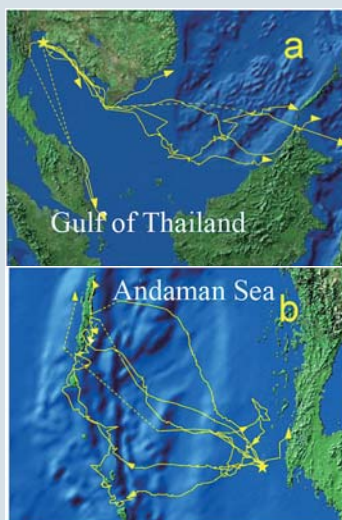


Fig.1. Results of the Argos tracking of adult female green turtles in the Gulf of Thailand (a) and the Andaman Sea (b).

The results clarified the migratory paths of the turtles after their nesting; in the Gulf of Thailand (Fig. 1a) they migrated to various sea areas sometimes even beyond Thai waters including the South China Sea, and in the Andaman Sea (Fig. 1b) almost all the turtles migrated to the Andaman Islands within Indian territorial waters via different routes.

The accuracy of the location of the conventional Argos system that we used as mentioned above can be anywhere between 100m and 4,000m. It is not enough to understand the details of wild movement and to make actual implementation plans to conserve both their nesting areas and feeding areas. If too wide a nursery area is declared without consideration of the location errors to safely conserve sea turtles, it may pose serious problems among those local people who live on coastal fisheries. Therefore, it is necessary to develop new PTTs to describe the fine scale movement in order to declare a satisfactory conservation area that is agreeable to the local people. For this purpose, we adapted the global positioning system (GPS) and developed the GPS-Argos PTTs.

We performed tracking experiments using the prototype of the GPS-Argos PTT attached to two hawksbill turtles, *Eretmochelys imbricate*, in a 5 ha breeding pond in Thailand. We obtained position data from both the Argos conventional positioning system and GPS, and then compared both data according to the fixed kernel home range estimation (Table 1).

This result shows that the GPS-Argos has enormous potential for increasing our understanding of the home range and the fine-scale movement patterns of sea turtles.

Table 1. Summary of results of the fixed kernel home range estimation for two hawksbill turtles, HB1 and HB2 in a 5 ha breeding pond in Mannai Island, Rayong Province, Thailand.

Turtle (CCL* cm)	Home range by Argos (ha)	Home range by GPS (ha)
HB1 (80.8)	156,740	2.96
HB2 (79.0)	184,478	0.93

\*CCL: Carved Carapace Length

## MEKONG GIANT CATFISH TRACKING

The Mekong giant catfish, *Pangasianodon gigas*, is endemic to the Mekong River basin but they are deeply endangered now. The Thai government heavily restricts the catch of Mekong giant catfish, but the number of the catch has decreased drastically. Moreover, this fish is one of the most important fisheries resources for local people who perform annual pre-catch folk rituals. The Thai government requested us to investigate the migration behaviour of the Mekong giant catfish based on the successful results of the sea turtle tracking.

We launched the Mekong giant catfish-tracking project (MCTP) in 2002 and performed it both in an artificial reservoir and in the Mekong River. We examined the diel and annual movement patterns in Mae Peun reservoir in Phayao Province, Thailand (Fig.2). Fish with ultrasonic transmitters surgically attached inside their body were monitored for approximately 15 months using 14 ultrasonic receivers set on the bottom of the reservoir to cover all the area. The fish showed diel horizontal movement patterns between the inshore and the offshore and displayed regular diel vertical movement patterns. During the day, fish showed active vertical movement; while at night they remained on the shallower inshore bottom, maybe to feed.



Fig.2. A post doctoral fellow released a Mekong giant catfish attached with data-loggers and a time-scheduled releaser in Mae Peun reservoir in Phayao Province, Thailand.

To quantify the possibility of enhancing hatchery-reared fish to the Mekong River, field experiments were conducted in the Mekong River from 2002-2004. We released 28 Mekong giant catfish attached with the transmitters and monitored fish for up to 97 days and collected the first records of upstream, downstream, and vertical



movement of these fish in the Mekong River. During the day, fish swam upstream at a speed of 16.2 km/d, and downstream at a speed of 7.2 km/d and displayed vertical movement between the surface and the bottom. Unfortunately, some of the fish might have migrated beyond the border and could not be recorded by the receivers set on the Thai side. These results indicate that hatchery-reared fish can survive and may have the ability to migrate and spawn in the Mekong River, and that we need cooperation between Thailand and Laos to monitor the fish in the Mekong River.

## DUGONG BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

Dugongs, *Dugong dugon*, are the only marine mammals that feed on benthic seagrass and they are also greatly endangered. As with the sea turtles, dugongs are sometimes caught incidentally by fishing gear due to the many human activities in the shallow waters where they live and feed.

We launched the dugong biological survey (DBS) in Trang Province, Thailand in 2002. The motivation of the DBS is different from the other two projects. The project was originally ordered by the Japanese government to conserve dugongs inhabiting around the Okinawa Islands. They say that there are less than 50 dugongs and are about to become extinct in the near future. However, little is known of dugongs so that it is keen to compile biological knowledge on dugongs. In this background, we found the suitable experimental field to study dugong biology in Thailand under the cooperation with Thai researchers.

We attempted to solve the problem by establishing a passive acoustic monitoring technique for dugongs. The idea of the technique is to record the dugong calls and analyze them acoustically to locate positions of the sources of the vocalizations. The advantages of this method are that it has no impact on the animals at all during monitoring and that it can be performed at constant detection efficiency even in the night. The limiting condition of the technique is that the focal animal must vocalize frequently and distinctively. A feasibility study was then necessary to better understand how these limitations could be cleared. Based on the acoustic characteristics of the calls, automatic underwater sound monitoring

systems for dugongs (AUSOMS-D) were developed (Fig.3).



Fig.3. Three graduate students brought an AUSOMS-D.

The AUSOMS-Ds were deployed on the sea floor at depths of about 5m south of Talibong Island, Thailand. The AUSOMS-Ds recorded underwater sound in stereo at a sampling frequency of 44.1 kHz for more than 116 consecutive hours. Dugong calls were automatically detected by newly developed software with a detection rate of 36.1% and a false alarm rate of 2.9%. In total, 3453 calls were detected during the 164 hrs of recording. The autocorrelation of the call rate indicated an attendance cycle of about 24 or 25 h, and the most frequent vocalizations were observed from 03.00 to 05.00 hrs. The calculated bearings of the sound sources, i.e., dugongs, were used as an indicator to track the relative numbers of dugongs during the monitoring periods.

## WHAT SHALL WE DO IN THE NEXT STEP?

The results of the SEASTAR2000 and MCTP indicate that both the sea turtle and Mekong giant catfish migrate beyond the borders so that international cooperation is essential for their conservation and the prevention of their extinction. We proved that the acoustical survey is also a useful tool to investigate dugong behavior. Although our research projects proposed the effective methodology to understand the behavior and revealed some of it, our knowledge is not sufficient to understand the whole of their habitat. Moreover, we need to be considerate to the local people who live on the coastal and inland fisheries. We are now just beginning to establish coexistence between endangered species and human beings based on the scientific knowledge.



### Nobuaki Arai

- Born in 1957
- Field of specialization: Biotelemetry study on a aquatic biological informatics
- Graduated from Faculty of Agriculture, Kyoto University
- D.Agr., Kyoto University
- Associate Professor, Graduate School of Informatics, Kyoto University
- URL <http://bre.soc.i.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~arai/index.html>

**I am about to start research that will help to prevent feeding damage on clams by longheaded eagle rays. I also want to develop new measuring instruments.**

Associate Prof. Arai was born at Kyoto University Hospital and grew up in Kyoto. He initially entered the Department of Information Engineering at Shinshu University, and later re-entered the Department of Fisheries in the Faculty of Agriculture at Kyoto University. This was not only because he wanted to study at Kyoto University but also as a result of the problems concerning the 200-nautical-mile fishing zone which were attracting much attention at that time. In 1980, he entered the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan. He was involved in fishery administration for 13 years while exercising his skills in acquiring a research budget for fishery research laboratories and in regulating fisheries in the Seto Inland Sea and the northern fishery. In 1993, encouraged by his former teacher at Kyoto University, he returned to the university as an assistant professor in the Department of Fisheries in the Faculty of Agriculture. He has occupied his present position since 1998.

Associate Prof. Arai is involved in research into marine life activities using biotelemetry—the method of observing the invisible—which uses radio waves and ultrasonic transmitters to trace the activities of organisms. He says: “It is not good to catch fish too much, but it is possible to allow a regulated fishing if one knows the mechanisms of marine life activities.” He conducts basic research for the preservation of various species and the acknowledgement of the coexistence of local societies, striving for the protection of rare marine animals such as sea turtles, dugongs and Finless porpoises as well as the sustainable use of important species for fisheries such as red tilefish and Mekong giant catfish.

He loved to study minerals and fossils as a child, and was excited about computers in the late 70's. The “geologist boy” with limitless curiosity realized his dream of becoming a researcher. He often travels abroad to participate in fieldwork and encourages young researchers to “be active on a global scale.”

# Toward the Creation of a New Portrayal of World History

## The Mongol Period as a Turning Point in World History

At the start of the 13th century a storm swept across Eurasia wreaking havoc. The storm raged on for over half a century. In its wake Eurasia and Africa were gradually united across both land and sea. The form of this landmass constituted an “Afro-Eurasian world,” and for the first time in world history, the world could be pictured as a single whole.

The idea has gained currency in Japan and overseas of seeing the 13th and 14th centuries, an era during which the Mongols occupied the center of the world stage and played the leading role, as an important turning point in world history and labeling the age as the “Mongol Period.” Fully cognizant of the preexisting Western conceptions of “geographical discoveries” and “the age of great discoveries,” I have argued that from the steppe, whose place in human history cannot be overlooked, the Mongol period once arose and that it preceded the Western age of discovery by over a century. This view may in some sense be termed a conception of world history that originated in Japan.

In short, prior to the commencement of the “globalization of the world” that took place on a worldwide scale as a result of the Western European foray onto the high seas, no one could deny that Eurasia and North Africa together with East Africa functioned as the main stage of human history. If the lengthy course of this history is termed the “history of Eurasia” or the “history of the

Afro-Eurasian world,” one sees that the majority of the territory of this “old world” had been gradually drawn together either directly or indirectly due to the expansion of the Mongol empire. However we refer to it, it must be noted that the creation and operation of this “system” was absolutely unprecedented.

First, during the half-century long period following the age of the founder Chingis Khan in the early 13th century, much of Eurasia was amassed into what has come to be known as the Mongol empire—an empire whose grip extended across the greatest landmass in human history. Then, following the age of the fifth khan, Khubilai, the sovereign state of the Great Yuan Ulus, officially the Great Yuan of the Great Mongol Ulus (Dai Ön Yeke Mongghul Ulus), ventured onto the high seas as a nation state and seized control of the trade and communications routes of the Indian Ocean. The result of this aggressive systemization across land and sea was a state of affairs that might be termed the “Eurasian communications sphere” or the “Afro-Asian communications sphere,” centered on the Mongols, who had thus formed a “world alliance of nations.” Western historians originally likened this to the “Pax Romana” and referred to it as the period as “Pax Tatarica” or “Pax Mongolica.” It cannot be denied that the regions of Asia, to say nothing of those of Europe, were being swept up at this time into the new state of affairs by the Mongols and that they were confronting a new age. The flowering of the Renaissance in Europe and the later revival of Mediterranean trade and rapid advances in sailing technology in the 14th century finally brought about the preconditions for Western Europe, led by Portugal and Spain, to advance abroad on the high seas.

I have researched the history of Eurasia, both east and west, and concentrated chiefly on the “Mongol period.” The pertinent written sources for such study are recorded in more than twenty different languages, and a vast number of archaeological material sources, artifacts, sites are extant. In recent years an accurate and complete portrait of this world has finally become visible. The significance of this new portrayal is as I have noted above. When viewing Afro-Eurasia of the “Mongol period” and the periods just prior and immediately after it, one cannot help but wonder how it was that world history had previously been recounted

solely in terms centered on the West? Since the second half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, it has become necessary to fundamentally remake the portrayal of world history that had been created in the West.

## The Pursuit of a Foundation for a Consciousness of the World

On further reflection, we might wish to consider what exactly this history of which we speak is. What really is the point of the study of history? What is it that those who are called historical researchers or historians are in fact pursuing? And what is it that they seek to recount? These questions, which have been posed since ancient times, have in recent years taken on a more pressing and poignant tone.

The post-Cold War world has followed the path of globalization and computerization at an unprecedented level of intensity. In spite of the trend towards growing unity and uniformity in various fields, such as economics, distribution, finance, transport, visual imagery, music, entertainment, fads, fashion and food, clearly negative aspects, such as war, terror, crime, AIDS, epidemics, BSE, and pollution of the atmosphere and the seas, are increasing on a world-wide scale. The many problems subsumed under the term “environmental issues” are classic examples.

The visions of the world or of world history created by theorists and historians of the past will be forsaken by a reality that catches and overtakes them or will require fundamental reconstruction. “Revisioning the modern” and similar projects are the least that can be done. To put it more bluntly, whether we like it or not, for us who live in the present day thinking on a planet-wide or global scale has become commonplace as a result of globalization and communications technology. Furthermore, when looking back from today’s standpoint, it is surely the case that many people will naturally wish to consider in which ways each and every period in the past operated on a global scale and take a broad second look at history using their modern perspective as a measuring stick.

It is clear that being a historical researcher who depends on original sources concerning a particular time period, region, or field, and also being a historian who paints a picture of history of each period from several angles is not an easy matter; however, many have



The Enthronement of Chingis Khan (*Jāmi' al-Tavārikh*, Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris)



## Masaaki Sugiyama

- Born in 1952
- Field of specialization: Inner Asian History
- Completed doctoral program, Graduate School of Letters, Kyoto University
- Professor, Graduate School of Letters, Kyoto University

### With the improvement in the quality of historical research, it is possible to make a complete story of world history.

Prof. Sugiyama worked as an assistant professor for nine years at the Institute for Research in Humanities after he completed a doctoral program in Oriental History at the Graduate School of Letters, Kyoto University, in 1979. Prof. Sugiyama says, "Because I had a lot of time in my days as an assistant professor at the Institute for Research in Humanities, I was able to conduct field surveys of Europe

and Eurasia, just before the Cold War between the East and the West ended. The surveys that I conducted during this period have greatly influenced my later study."

Prof. Sugiyama, who liked history when in high school, had doubts about the Eurocentric view of world history. By going beyond the framework of Eastern and Western civilizations, he has studied history from a Eurasian point of view, mainly the Mongolian era of the 13th and 14th centuries. His activities include giving lectures and being involved in the production of television programs to propose a new image of world history. His statement, "Japanese can take a general survey of world history from a neutral standpoint, without getting caught up in the Eurocentric viewpoint," illustrates his faith in his own research. Recently, he has been promoting a project to integrate the humanities and science with the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature of the National Institute for the Humanities, and dealing with environmental problems in the middle of Eurasia where

historical research has not existed for more than 200 years.

Prof. Sugiyama proposes that "from the viewpoint of human development, students should learn the political history, concentrate on learning many languages, and study other areas beyond their own specialized fields." In addition to Japanese students, foreign students from many various countries including Kazakhstan, the U.S.A., China, Mongolia, and Korea get together with Prof. Sugiyama every week to debate till late at night in order to improve their Persian proficiency.



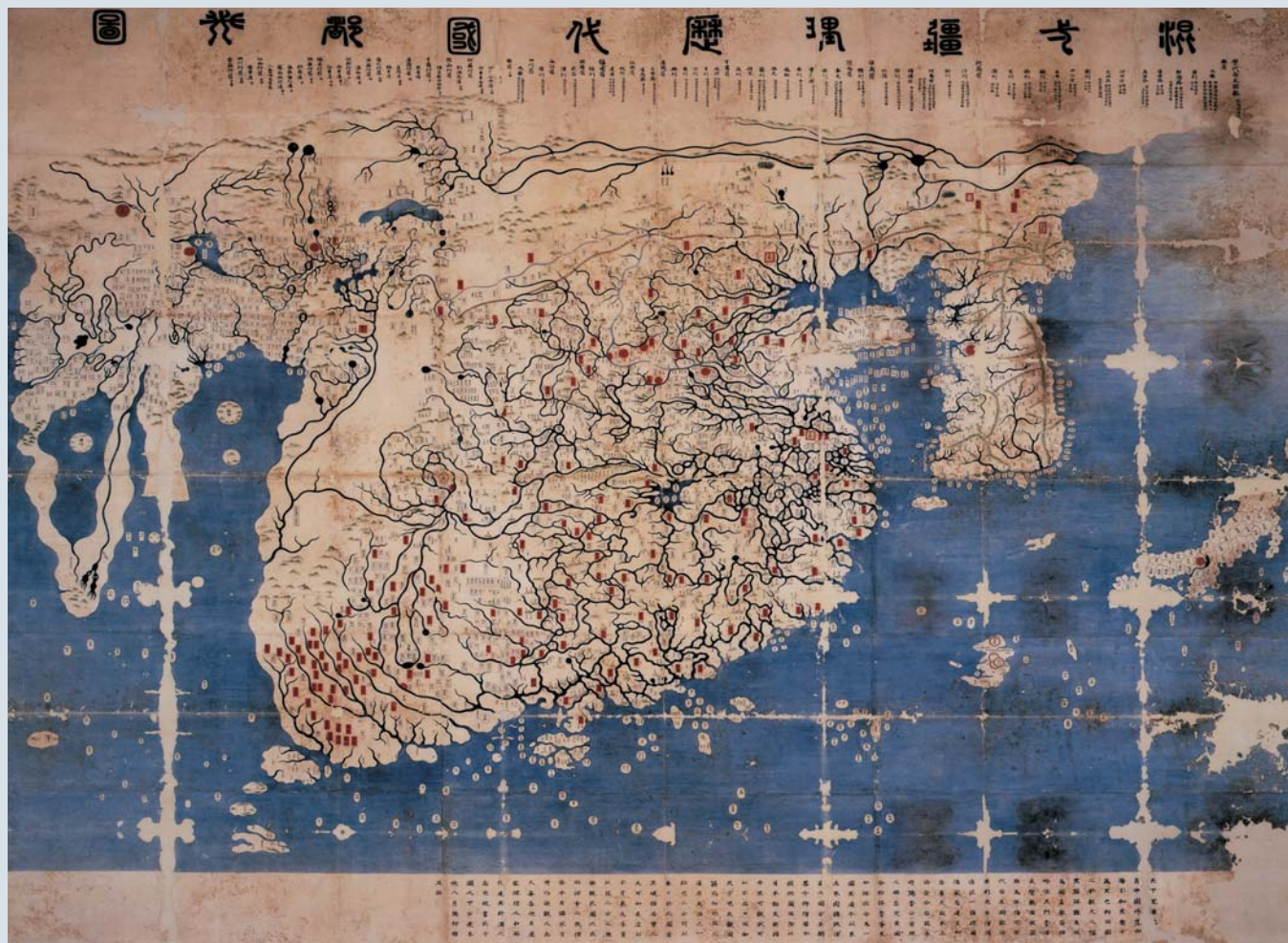
devoted themselves to this task.

Moreover, given the current conditions in which nearly all obstacles involving source materials, politics, and national boundaries have been eliminated, that which is truly required today is a portrayal of the course of history with a global scope, in other words, a

factually based account of the whole human history.

Such a portrayal of history is indispensable in presenting a point of view based on a consciousness of the world irrespective of the past, present, or future. And, if this challenge can be met, I hope that it may serve as the

foundation of shared human knowledge. At base, this enterprise must involve a joint effort to assemble shared human knowledge and overcome the differences of individuals, borders, and races. This is a difficult but necessary and meaningful challenge for the age in which we live today.



混一疆理歷代國都之圖 Honil ganghi yeokdae gukdo ji do (Hon-kôji Temple, Shimabara)



## The 40th Anniversary of the Primate Research Institute



Aerial photograph of PRI

The Primate Research Institute (PRI) was founded on June 1st, 1967, and this year, 2007, is the Institute's 40th anniversary. The anniversary ceremony was held on June 1st, this year, in the Clock Tower Centennial Hall of Kyoto University and President Kazuo Oike and other guests took part in the ceremony.

The plenary lecture was given by two foreign scholars. Dr. Frans de Waal, is Director of the Living Links Center at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center. He is a primatologist and an ethologist, and is a well known author of numerous books including "*Chimpanzee Politics*" and "*Our Inner Ape*". Svante Pääbo, is Director of the Department of Genetics at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany. He is well known for being one of the founders of paleogenetics, a

discipline that uses genetics to study early humans and other ancient inhabitants. In his talk, Pääbo announced a plan to reconstruct the entire genome of Neanderthals in the coming few years. In 2007, de Waal and Pääbo were both named as two of TIME Magazine's 100 most influential people of the year.

The two plenary speakers are the

collaborators of PRI's HOPE project. HOPE is an anagram of "Primate Origins of Human Evolution". It is a collaborative international project studying primates and involves a network of five countries in this discipline; Japan, Germany, USA, UK, and Italy. Funding has been provided by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) since 2003.

In 1948, Kinji Imanishi (1902-1992) started his fieldwork of Japanese monkeys (Snow monkeys) on Koshima Island, in Miyazaki Prefecture. Therefore, 2008, next year, will be the 60th anniversary of primatology in Japan. After accumulating 10 years of field experience, Imanishi and his students first went to Africa to study gorillas and chimpanzees in 1958. Based on the efforts of Imanishi and others, and a collaboration of laboratory scientists led by Toshihiko Tokizane (1909-1973) of the University of Tokyo, PRI was founded in 1967 upon the recommendation of the Science Council Japan (SCJ) to the Japanese govern-

ment. At that time, the president of the SCJ was Professor Shin'ichiro Tomonaga (1906-1979), a graduate of Kyoto University and a 1965 Nobel prize winner for his achievements in theoretical physics.

In April 2007, PRI started a new facility called Research Resource Station (RRS). RRS aims to raise nonhuman primates in an enriched environment for a variety of experimental purposes. As a first step, we built open-air enclosures for Japanese monkeys. They live in a very large space with a lot of natural vegetation. The second RRS campus is located about 2 km east of our main Kanrin campus, and is 70 ha in area or 70 times as large as the Big Egg, the main baseball stadium in Tokyo. Its area is also equivalent to the total area of the main Yoshida campus of Kyoto University. PRI will continue in its efforts to promote the welfare of nonhuman primates in captivity through environmental enrichment.

The 40 year old main building is



President Oike made a speech at the ceremony for the formal completion held at St. Francis Xavier's Cathedral in the Museum Meiji-Mura



Dr. Kinji Imanishi, a pioneer of Japanese primatology



currently under renovation. It consists of five floors and the basement, covering a total of 6000 m<sup>2</sup>. All of the main building's staff and students have been moved to three different places in Inuyama city for the duration of the renovation, temporarily inconveniencing staff and students. We remain patient however and await the beginning of a new era, a renaissance of the institute.

Chinese tradition provides a color for each of the four seasons. Spring is represented by blue, Summer by scarlet, Autumn by white, and Winter is represented by black. These colors and seasons are also given to the four periods of human life: Blue spring,

Scarlet summer, White autumn, and Black winter. At present, the average life span of Japanese people is about 80 years and so the first 20 year period, youth, is called Blue spring. The period including the 20's and 30's should be called Scarlet summer. The PRI is 40 years old and now entering the new period called White autumn. Autumn is called the season of harvest and so the harvest here means this is the time for maturing of the fruits of our labors and preparing for the next generation of academic research. We will continue to exert a considerable amount of effort into pioneering new disciplines to stimulate the next generation.

What is human nature? Where did we come from? What will we become? These fundamental questions still remain to be answered. Primatological studies will provide some important clues to these questions. PRI recently edited a book entitled "*Science of Primate Evolution*", which was published by Kyoto University Academic Press in May 2007. All of the 38 faculty members contributed a chapter to the book. It covers a range of topics from the genome to the ecology of humans and nonhuman primates. I hope that the readers will enjoy the book and that they will gain a comprehensive knowledge of the study of primatology.



The second RRS campus



President Oike kissing with Ai



Aerial photograph of RRS



Three kids playing together



## Field Station: An Apparatus That Integrally Promotes Education and Research

One of the great traditions of research in Kyoto University is its positivist approach. Our emphasis on on-site research based on fieldwork has enabled us to come up with unique paradigms. The graduate school to which I belong considers fieldwork the heart of education and research, and mainly aims at integrating and promoting first-line field research with educational activities. In order to do so, it is necessary for teaching staff and students to conduct research and think together in the research field in Asia and Africa. The Field Station (FS) is an important apparatus for achieving this.

An FS can be set in a room rented in a local research institution or a private house, or it can be a small house built near research sites (Photo 1). These places are equipped with such facilities as the internet connection, dictionaries and encyclopedias, to provide suitable environment for researchers to prepare for fieldwork, assess collected materials, and host seminars (Photo 2). Our graduate school and the Center for Southeast Asian Studies collaborated for the 21st Century COE\* Program “Aiming for COE of Integrated Area Studies,” which was implemented in 2002 and lasted for 5 years. The program contributed to establishing

FSs in nine locations in Asia and five locations in Africa. From 2007, the Global COE Program, “In search of sustainable humanosphere in Asia and Africa”, will further expand this function.

One benefit of education that uses an FS is that graduate students can learn based on concrete examples through intensively sharing their fieldwork experiences with teaching staff. We call this on-site education. Another benefit of an FS is that graduate students can identify their problems by organizing materials of ongoing research and holding seminars. In so doing, the students can reorient the direction in which their fieldwork is heading. Finally, it is important for graduate students to interact and discuss more with local researchers and graduate students through using an FS, in order to develop multifaceted points of view.

I myself set up an FS in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya. While helping with its management, I promoted fieldwork in Kenya and Uganda. It was a small apartment whose size was about 2 bedroom apartment, but



Photo 1. The Cameroon Field Station is a local style cottage built in a tropical rainforest

this FS had an immeasurable impact on the development of education and research. I could live with students and discuss research with them, and invite local researchers and field informants in order to deepen our interaction (Photo 3). It is worth noting that all the FSs have become important research centers for the wider research community, including staff and students from other departments of the university and external organizations as well. Kyoto University could benefit greatly from taking full advantage of these FSs in its promotion of internationalization strategies.

(Prof. Itaru Ohta, Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies)

\*COE: Center of Excellence



Photo 2. Solar panels generate electricity for the Cameroon Field Station



Photo 3. A seminar hosted at the Nairobi Field Station, in cooperation with local people

## Get-together of Kyoto Union Club in Thailand

Kyoto Union Club is an association of Thai alumni graduated from universities in Kyoto, and most of the members are Kyoto University graduates. Thai students have always occupied a large percentage of Kyoto University's international students population. We have received 20 to 40 undergraduate and graduate students every year during the last several decades. After completing their study programs in Kyoto, most of them returned back to their home country and occupy key positions in universities, government agencies and private companies. They exchange ideas and information at Kyoto Union Club meetings, but the exchange with Kyoto University had been limited.

In order to vitalize collaboration between Kyoto University and her graduates in Thailand and to promote the intellectual presence of Kyoto University in Thai society, we organized a get-together on Saturday 19th May, 2007 at Thai-Nichi Institute of Technology (TNI) in Bangkok.

In the meeting, Dr. Wiwut Tanthapanichakoon, President of Kyoto Union Club and Director of National Nanotechnology Center introduced activities of Kyoto Union Club, and Prof. Kozo Hiramatsu, Dean, Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, Prof. Eiji Nawata, Graduate School of Agriculture, Associate Prof. Nobuaki Arai, Graduate School of Informatics, Prof. Mamoru Shibayama and Prof. Yasuyuki Kono, Center for Southeast Asian Studies introduced recent development of Kyoto University.



Special lecture by Prof. Emer. Kazutake Kyuma

We also invited Prof. Emer. Kazutake Kyuma, former Dean of Graduate School of Agriculture, to give us a special lecture titled "Forty-two Years of My Association with Thai Soils".

More than 50 participants enjoyed introducing each other and updating information. Finally we agreed to jointly organize Kyoto University Forum for creating the opportunity to get-together and publicizing Kyoto University activities to Thai society.

(Prof. Yasuyuki Kono, Center for Southeast Asian Studies)



Inaugural address by Dr. Wiwut Tanthapanichakoon, President of Kyoto Union Club

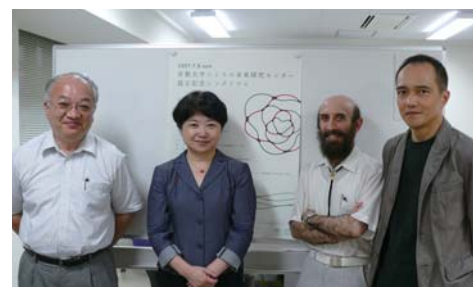
## Kokoro Research Center Established at Kyoto University

*Kokoro* is a Japanese word that expresses a range of meanings generally translated into English as "mind," "heart" or "spirit." The Kokoro Research Center, Kyoto University, was established on April 1st, 2007. The center aims to describe the heart and mind of the human race and construct a model of humanity in this age of globalization by advancing comprehensive, multifaceted research relating to the concept of *kokoro* in such diverse fields as psychology, cognitive science, neuroscience and the humanities. Research undertaken at the center will focus on three main areas: "*kokoro* and the body," "*kokoro* and kizuna (ties/bonds)" and "*kokoro* and living." The center's mission is to construct a framework of research which fuses these three areas, and through its research activities,

to offer strategies essential for dealing with issues in modern society relating to *kokoro*. By actively promoting exchange between researchers and specialists from institutions both within and outside Japan, and by disseminating the fruits of its research widely throughout society by means of collaboration with public institutions and industry, the center will contribute to the diffusion of scientific knowledge of *kokoro*.

On July 8th, 2007, a symposium was held at the Kyoto University Clock Tower Centennial Hall to commemorate the opening of the new center. The event featured presentations on the establishment of the Kokoro Research Center, as well as presentations by several invited speakers including Profs. Mariko Hasegawa of the Graduate University of Advanced

Studies ("The Evolution of *Kokoro*"), Shinobu Kitayama of the University of Michigan ("Culture and *Kokoro*") and Tadashi Nishihira of the University of Tokyo ("*Kokoro* and Selflessness"). At the conclusion of the symposium, the guest speakers were joined by four of the new center's professors for a discussion session entitled "The Quest for *Kokoro*."



Professors from the Kokoro Research Center, Kyoto University (Left to Right: Shintaro Funahashi, Sakiko Yoshikawa, Carl Becker, Toshio Kawai)





## Patricio N. Abinales

- Born in 1960
- Field of specialization: Philippine and Southeast Asian Politics
- Completed doctoral program at Cornell University
- Ph.D., Cornell University
- Professor, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University

**I feel enthusiastic about improving the *Kyoto Review of Southeast Asia* (KRSEA), which will soon be published in seven languages. If possible, I would also like to teach an undergraduate class on Southeast Asian or World Politics, to get college students interested in world affairs.**

Prof. Abinales was born in a small village in the south of the Philippines. He grew up watching Japanese movies at a theatre in his village. Shintaro Katsu, who played Zatoichi, the blind swordsman, and Ken Takakura, from Japanese gang films, became his heroes. Due to his mother's wish, he attended a seminary, where he studied under Irish missionaries who introduced him to Shakespeare, Milton, Arthur Conan Doyle, and many other writers, as well as on the history of Irish struggles for freedom. After high school, he entered the University of the Philippines, as a history major. In 1972, the late President Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law. The university was shut down by the army and students were all imprisoned and intimidated by the military and the police. Confronted by a dictatorship, many of university students decided to get involved in the struggle for democracy. The young 16-year-old Abinales found himself drawn into the movement. Abinales graduated in 1977 and stayed on as a research assistant at the university's Third World Studies Center, an institution devoted to the study of progressive politics and nurturing ties with other Southeast Asian intellectuals, academics and activists. In 1986, the struggle against the Marcos dictatorship achieved a breakthrough when President Marcos was forced to go on exile by a popular uprising. The exhilaration over the return of democracy, however, was dampened when Prof. Abinales's two best friends were assassinated by rightwing groups in 1987. These two painful events affected him considerably that he decided to take a step back from the reality of continuing violence in his country, and pursue graduate studies abroad at Cornell University in 1988 through a fellowship granted by the university's Southeast Asia Program. He completed his Ph.D. in Government in 1997 and wrote a dissertation on state formation and local power in two southern Philippine provinces.

Abinales then taught for five years at the Department of Political Science, in Ohio University. In 1999, he joined the Center for Southeast Asian Studies in Kyoto University as associate professor. He became one of the two Philippine specialists in the Center and was actively involved in promoting and nurturing collaborative research and academic networking with scholars from Southeast Asia. One of the results of these projects was the launching of the *Kyoto Review of Southeast Asia* (KRSEA), the world's first academic multilingual web journal, in 2002.

In "nice and slow" Kyoto, Prof. Abinales conducts research on social and gender violence among Filipino middle classes, a multi-disciplinary mapping of the war and peace zones of the southern Philippines, and diseases and pestilence as non-traditional security problems in East Asia. During the weekend, he spends time with his family in "cosmopolitan" Yokohama and visits "fast and complex" Tokyo. With humor, he commented: "As someone from the American East Coast, my wife likes Tokyo a lot since it reminds her of New York. But being a country boy myself, I feel more at home in Kyoto."

## "Talking" Simultaneously in Bahasa Indonesia, English, Filipino, Japanese, and Thai

"How I can know about the latest books on Philippine politics written in Filipino, without learning the language?" A Thai colleague posed this question, and it eventually led the Center for Southeast Asian Studies to publish its web-journal, the *Kyoto Review of Southeast Asia* (KRSEA).

Area studies specialists are noted for their ability to learn the language(s) of countries they study. In Southeast Asian studies, the top scholars from Japan and the West are deeply conversant with one or more languages of a particular country. Usually, therefore, intellectual interaction is mainly between the foreign specialists and his or her local counterparts. Multiple connections between specialists and scholars in more than two countries are rare, and lateral engagements between scholars in the studied countries are even rarer.

Two reasons for these limitations stand out: one is lack of funding and opportunity (mainly on the part of Southeast Asian scholars), and the second is the fact that deeper and broader *simultaneous* communication requires all to use English.

KRSEA is an attempt to overcome the second constraint. The web-journal consists of review essays, book reviews, and feature articles that introduce readers to what Southeast Asian scholars and area studies specialists are interested in. Online since 2002, the journal also includes reprints of articles published in Southeast Asia and Japan, transcripts of conferences and workshops, and audio interviews.

Review essays and selected major articles in every issue are presented in *Bahasa Indonesia*, *English*, *Filipino*, *Japanese*, and *Thai*. In our dream scenario, a public school teacher in southern Thailand needing readings and references on Muslims in southern Philippines can download a review essay on that topic – *in Thai* – written by a Filipino Muslim scholar in Filipino. Needing clarification, the Thai teacher could send a question or a comment *in Thai* to KRSEA, which will pass it on to the author *in Filipino*. A Japanese researcher could join in the

discussion by sending his/her comments. He/She will be assured that the author and the Thai teacher will get these comments *in their respective languages* and their response will be sent to him/her in Japanese.

The goal of the *Kyoto Review of Southeast Asia* is to reach as broad an audience as possible. Therefore the journal is free from subscription fees and, thanks to the generous support of the Toyota Foundation, has expanded its translations from abstracts to full articles, beginning with Issue 6 (March 2005).

Reception to KRSEA has been quite positive. Between September 2006 and April 2007, which has featured Issue 7 on "States, Peoples, and Borders in Southeast Asia," the site has seen average monthly visits reach 64,164. The journal's popularity has encouraged writers to send in pieces in their own languages, which in turn increases the pool of potential contributors.

As of this writing, we are preparing to post Issue 8 on "Literature and Culture in Southeast Asia." This issue will include something new – video documentaries. For the future, we are working closely with our colleagues in China to select review essays and book reviews for a special issue on Chinese Studies on Southeast Asia, in which *Mandarin* will join the other languages. A special issue on Korean Studies on Southeast Asia is also being planned and will introduce Korean as the seventh language of the journal. Two more issues will focus on "local voices in Southeast Asia," highlighting writings, videos, and audio interviews of scholars, public intellectuals, media people, and NGO activists from marginalized communities of the region.

*Kyoto Review of Southeast Asia's* URL is [www.kyotoreviewsea.org](http://www.kyotoreviewsea.org).



Prof. Abinales browsing the Kyoto Review website

## Sri Lankan researcher wants to use her experience at the Primate Research Institute to lay the foundation for primatology in Sri Lanka

The Primate Research Institute, Kyoto University in Inuyama City, Aichi Prefecture has become an international research center in primatology and evolutionary anthropology, drawing large numbers of outstanding researchers from all over the world. In this issue we interview one of those researchers, Charmalie A.D. Nahallage. The multi-talented Nahallage hails from Sri Lanka, where she is a lecturer in biological anthropology at the University of Sri Jayawardenepura, and has also experience in the fields of forensic anthropology and limnology. She came to Japan in 2003, and is always busy with observations, analyses and writing papers for her Ph.D. thesis, as she pursues her goal of laying the foundation for primatological research in her home country.

### ■ Were you interested in primates when you were young?

When I was a child, I loved nature, and I read many books about how all animals, not just monkeys, live in the forest. When I was in junior high school, on weekends I was taught about the animal world by the Young Zoologist Association based at the zoo. Later, I would help them with work at the zoo.

### ■ So when did you begin to focus your interest on primates?

I was born and raised in Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka, but even so we could often see monkeys close by. It began with seeing them up close in my neighborhood, and thinking how cute they were. However, once I entered university and began research, I saw they were not just cute, but in the way they behave with one another, or in the way mothers looked after their children, they seemed quite close to humans. The more I studied, the more I wanted to know.



Charmalie with two former students from The University of Sri Jayawardenepura, observing toque macaques in Yala National Park in February 2007 (photo by MA Huffman)

### ■ Which brought you to the Primate Research Institute...

There are four kinds of primate in Sri Lanka, three of which are unique, indigenous species. In Sri Lanka, research about elephants is thriving, but primatology has not been developed much, and the fact is we do not fully understand the current situation of these monkeys. In order to conserve these monkeys, I think we have to allow primatology to take root. After I came to this research institute my graduate advisor and I worked on establishing a memorandum of understanding between the Primate Research Institute and my university, to promote the development of joint research projects in the field of primatology and to exchange scientific information. Before coming here, I compared the facilities of primate research centers around the world, and this one had both large numbers of monkeys and well-equipped facilities. Most of all, it has attracted leading researchers such as Prof. Michael Huffman, so I judged this one was the best.

### ■ What kind of research are you doing now?

I'm mainly studying the acquisition of stone handling behavior, a form of object play behavior, in monkeys. I studied a troop of Japanese macaques from 2003 to 2006, which allowed me to observe the cultural aspects of stone handling, the way it was passed from mother to child, and for the first time we were able to clearly see the correlation between the speed of acquisition and the frequency of stone handling by the mother, in captive and provisioned free ranging troops, rather than in a laboratory, and collect quantifiable data. Currently, we are doing an inter-species comparison of this behavior between Japanese macaques and rhesus monkeys based on the observational data of colonies at the institute. At the same time, with the cooperation of Prof. Huffman, I've been back to Sri Lanka a number of times to conduct a country wide survey of all the primate species in Sri Lanka.

### ■ How are you finding life in Japan?

Sri Lanka and Japan are both Buddhist countries, so I feel they are culturally very close. For example, in our relationships with others, we always consider the other person's feelings. I have many Japanese friends and they are very



### Charmalie A. D. Nahallage

- Born in 1968
- Lecturer in Biological Anthropology, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Sri Jayawardenepura
- Currently in the second year of doctoral program at the Primate Research Institute, Kyoto University

kind and always helpful, and we have been to many places together. We even went strawberry-picking. So even though it has been four years since I came to Japan, I've never felt lonely. I'm also interested in Buddhist temples. I like Kyoto and Nara.

Oh yes, although I'm quite used to it now, I do a lot of observations outdoors, so I found the cold quite hard to bear. The first time I got frostbitten, I didn't know what it was, so I was very surprised.

### ■ What do you think of Inuyama?

It's an ancient castle town noted for historical sites and it's natural beauty. There is a very beautiful castle and some houses and structures from ancient times. Literally Inuyama means "dog mountain". This is one of the reasons why Inuyama is popular for its dog events. Each year in October the dog marathon is held. Whenever I have time, I help out with the "Inuyama Newsletter" that provides activity information for foreigners living in Inuyama.

### ■ Finally, please tell us about your plans for the future.

I will continue with my research here until September 2008. After that, I will return to Sri Lanka, and will continue research in Sri Lanka and will start lecturing on primatology in our department. Later, my dream is to set up a primate research institute, modeled on the one here. I've had many good experiences here, so I'm sure I will be able to put that to good use in Sri Lanka.



# Kyoto University International Symposium

## The 9th: Integrating Global Environmental Studies towards Human Security

The 9th Kyoto University International Symposium, entitled “Integrating Global Environmental Studies towards Human Security” was held on June 22nd~23rd at the Kyoto University Clock Tower Centennial Hall. The Symposium, which drew over 400 participants, featured invited guest speakers from countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, South Korea, Malaysia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, India and Iran. Kyoto University has regularly held such symposia at various international venues since 2001; however, this is the first to be held on the campus of Kyoto University itself, and the first to be held in Japan.

The opening forum on the first day featured keynote speeches by Alan Dupont, Director of the Center for International Security Studies, University of Sydney, and Toshiro Kojima Japan’s Vice Minister for Global Environmental Affairs of the Ministry of the Environment. Prof. Dupont’s speech was entitled “The

Interaction between Environmental Security and Human Security,” and Vice Minister Kojima spoke on “Climate Security.” Following the keynote speeches, a panel discussion was held focusing on the issue of “Global Environmental Studies for Human Security.”

The first part of the second day’s proceedings was divided into three simultaneously held lecture and discussion sessions. The sessions were entitled “What is ‘Sustainability’?” “Civilizing Modern Science and Technology for a New Civilization,” and “Field and Community Experiences.” The three sessions were followed by a lively combined discussion session on the theme of “The Direction and Prospects of Global Environmental Studies in the Future.”

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Kyoto Protocol and the 5th anniversary of the establishment of Kyoto University’s Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies. As worldwide concerns over

environmental problems such as global warming increase, the 9th Kyoto University International Symposium was a landmark event in the multi-disciplinary field of global environmental studies.

The event was jointly organized by Kyoto University’s Organization for the Promotion of International Relations (OPIR) and Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies (GSGES) in collaboration with the Field Science Education and Research Center (FSERC) and the Kyoto Sustainability Initiative (KSI).



The first day's panel discussion



Invited Speaker, Prof. Alan Dupont, University of Sydney



Dr. Kazuo Oike, President of Kyoto University



The first day's open seminar



Invited Speaker, Toshiro Kojima,  
Vice Minister for Global Environmental Affairs



Prof. Toshio Yokoyama,  
Vice-President, Director-General of OPIR



A scene from one of the second day's lecture  
and discussion sessions

## The 10th: Active Geosphere Science

The 10th Kyoto University International Symposium was held in Bandung, Indonesia from July 26-28, 2007. The theme of the seminar was “Active Geosphere Science.” Keeping in mind the university’s Fundamental Principle of pursuing “harmonious coexistence within human and ecological community on this planet,” participants engaged in a multi-faceted dialogue with the objective of gaining a more integrated understanding of the Earth’s active geosphere, the interrelation of its individual components, and how best to disseminate that knowledge throughout both the local and global communities. The seminar featured reports of cutting-edge research based on fieldwork in tropical regions, discussions on the appropriate method of representing academic and scientific views, perspective on fields related to geosphere science, and expectations for geoscientists in the future.

Approximately 200 researchers and graduate students attended the symposium. Attendees hailed from 16 different countries and areas: Korea, China, Taiwan, The Philippines, Laos, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, India, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Great Britain, the United States of America and Japan. Twenty-eight faculty members and graduate students from six Kyoto University departments including the Graduate School of Science and Disaster

Prevention Research Institute (DPRI) attended the symposium. The symposium’s discussions benefited from the cultural diversity and broad age-range of the participants.

The symposium featured presentations by speakers from several institutions with which Kyoto University has partnership agreements: the Institut Teknologi Bandung, the Indonesian Institute of Science and the University of Michigan. Lectures were also given by speakers from Princeton University, the California Institute of Technology, the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts among others.

On the first day of the symposium, an opening ceremony was held in the auditorium of Institut Teknologi Bandung. A greeting by Dr. Kazuo Oike, President of Kyoto University followed an explanation of the history and character of the Kyoto University International Symposia by Prof. Toshio Yokoyama, Director-General of the Organization for the Promotion of International Relations. These opening greetings were followed by further addresses by Prof. Dr. Djoko Santoso, Rector of the Institut Teknologi Bandung, Prof. Dr. Masaru Kono of the Tokyo Institute of Technology, Member of the Science Council of Japan and Deputy Minister Dr. Bambang Sapto Pratomosunu

of the State Ministry of Research and Technology.

The opening session began with a presentation about Kyoto University’s Active Geosphere Investigations for the 21st Century Centers of Excellence Program (KAGI21) by Prof. Shigeo Yoden of the Graduate School of Science. Following that, the venue moved to the Sheraton Hotel where, a session centering on the part of active fluid geosphere research was held in the afternoon. The following day (27th) featured a session which highlighted the importance of Indonesia in the field of active geosphere science. In the afternoon a field trip to the Tangkuban Parahu volcano and the Lembang fault was organized.

The final day revolved around the solid part of active geosphere science research. Following an integrated session on the coupling process of the active geosphere, a panel discussion was held entitled “Active Geosphere Sciences for Human Activities in the Tropics.” The discussion, which was chaired by Prof. James Mori (DPRI), centered on international cooperative research and education undertakings. The discussion drew many comments from the assembled audience and ultimately ran over-time, a testimony to the profound interest generated by the relatively young field of active geosphere science.



Prof. Dr. Djoko Santoso,  
Rector of the Institut Teknologi Bandung



The panel discussion on  
the symposium's final day



The second day's field trip





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# P R O M E N A D E

京都逍遙

百萬遍  
知恩寺

## Hyakumanben Chionji—where various faces of Kyoto intersect

At the northwest corner of the Yoshida Campus of Kyoto University lies a crossroads strangely named “Hyakumanben” (a word used in the Kansai area, meaning “one million times”). It is not the proper name of the place but is widely known amongst the Kyoto citizens. Surprisingly, however, what is not well-known is that the name comes from Hyakumanben Chionji, a temple located just east of the crossroads.

In 1331 when the Emperor Godaigo was on the throne, an epidemic broke out in Kyoto. Following an imperial order, the holy priest Zenna from the Chionji temple visited the Imperial Palace and repeated a prayer to Buddha one million times over seven days. The epidemic subsided and the emperor showed his gratitude by giving the Chionji temple the title “Hyakumanben.” Since then the temple has been called Hyakumanben Chionji.

Chionji was built in 1212 by the saint Genchi in memory of his master, Honen, who founded the Jodo Shu (Pure Land Buddhism). The temple originally stood about two kilometers east of its current location. As a result of pressure from influential people and after a fire, the temple was forced to move from place to place until it settled at its present location in 1662. Although Hyakumanben is now associated with Kyoto University, without such twists and turns, the Hyakumanben crossroads might have existed further west of its present location.

Hyakumanben Chionji attracts a crowd on the 15th day of every month. In the morning, many followers gather to copy a sutra. In the afternoon, a Hyakumanben Dainenjukuri (Hyakumanben Big Rosary Counting) is held. Here, followers make a circle so that a huge rosary, whose circumference is about 100 meters, can be placed on their laps. The people then move around the rosary while reciting a Buddhist prayer. The origin of this counting is related to a big rosary donated by the Emperor Godaigo after the aforementioned epidemic was over. The present rosary was made in 1980.

Another feature is a Tezukurichi (handicraft fair). The precincts are crowded with about 350 shops that sell sundry goods, clothes, foods and other handmade products. This is also a place for artists to display their work, as well as for unusual attractions such as fortunetelling and bodywork. Starting in 1986, the fair is now widely known among the people of Kyoto. The fair is already flooded with people in the morning, and products at the more popular shops are quickly sold out. There are many people from abroad—a characteristic of Kyoto—and you will see them haggling with the shop owners in their limited Japanese vocabularies. International students of Kyoto University also seem to enjoy the fair as monthly entertainment.



The entire precincts viewed from the rooftop of the Faculty of Engineering fourth building at Kyoto University. Mieido is in the center back, Shakado on the right, and Amidado on the left.

A wooden statue of the saint Honen enshrined here. A masterpiece from the Muromachi period, whose face, filled with wisdom and affection, truly strikes your heart.



Big Rosary Counting. How beads are moved to their next position with the rhythmical ringing of a bell. This creates a solemn but peaceful atmosphere.

A scene of the lively handicraft fair. This is not only a place for selling products but is also a place for a “handmade international exchange”.

